

## REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th May 1897.

## CONTENTS:

|  | Page. |  | Page. |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| <b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>  |       | <b>Water scarcity in a village in the Bankura district</b> 383                           |       |
| The Government's view of the Amir's attitude ...                   | 375   | Water-scarcity in Noakhali ...   | ib    |
| The Indian Musalman's sympathy with the Sultan.                    | ib    | The Wari Settlement in Dacca ...   | ib    |
| <b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>                                    |       | <b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>   |       |
| <b>(a)—Police—</b>   |       | Nil  |       |
| Reform of the Bengal police ...                                    | ib    | <b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>                 |       |
| Licenses for arms in certain parts of the Mymensingh district ...  | ib    | Steamer service in East Bengal ...   | ib    |
| Recrudescence of crime in the country ...                          | ib    | A bad road in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district ...                     | ib    |
| Cow-slaughter at Kushtia ...                                       | 376   | The down platform at Khana junction ...  | 384   |
| Musalman high-handedness in Pandua in the Hooghly district ...     | ib    | How to protect female honour on railways ...   | ib    |
| Theft and dacoity in Midnapore ...                                 | ib    | A masonry bridge wanted over the Kana Nadi ...   | ib    |
| A thief not prosecuted ...   | ib    | A local train on the East Indian Railway ...   | ib    |
| Fraudulent cooly recruitment in Bankura ...                        | 377   | A railway complaint ...  | ib    |
| <b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>                                  |       | The railway collision at the Howrah station ...  | ib    |
| The Jury Notification ...  | ib    | <b>(h)—General—</b>  |       |
| A sentence of whipping ...   | ib    | The new plague inspection rules ...  | 385   |
| The Jury Notification ...  | 378   | The <i>Englishman</i> on the <i>Indian Mirror's</i> view of the plague notifications ... | ib    |
| The quarrel between the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court ... | ib    | The Telegraph Office case at Gauhati ...   | ib    |
| Nepotism in the Faridpur courts ...                                | 379   | The Noadanga Post-office, Rangpur district ...   | ib    |
| The Jury Notification ...  | ib    | The Sub-Registrar of Amta ...  | ib    |
| Mr. Ainslie again ...  | ib    | Government's new instructions regarding plague inspection ...                            | ib    |
| The Ranaghat railway case ...                                      | 380   | The Government clerks in Darjeeling ...  | ib    |
| The ear-pulling case ...   | 381   | <b>III.—LEGISLATIVE.</b>   |       |
| The Jury Notification ...  | ib    | The Religious Endowments Bill ...  | ib    |
| The case of Lawson and Collins ...                                 | 382   | <b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>  |       |
| <b>(c)—Jails—</b>  |       | Alleged rebellion in Jhalwar ...   | 386   |
| A prayer for the release of the editor of the <i>Hitavadi</i> ...  | ib    | <b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>                            |       |
| <b>(d)—Education—</b>  |       | The Tangail Relief Sub-Committee ...   | ib    |
| Simplification of the Lower Primary Examination course ...         | ib    | Food and water-scarcity in the Tangail subdivision ...                                   | ib    |
| <b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>     |       | Distress in the Chittagong district ...  | ib    |
| Water scarcity in the 24-Parganas district ...                     | ib    | Distress in Faridpur ...   | 387   |
| Reports of water scarcity ...                                      | 383   | Reports of food and water scarcity ...   | ib    |
| Water scarcity in a village in Chittagong ...                      | ib    |  |       |



|  | Page. |
|--|-------|
| Another death in the Kaliganj relief-house | 387   |
| Distress in Bankura                        | 388   |
| Distress in Bengal                         | 389   |
| A famine picture                           | ib    |
| Distress in Faridpur                       | 390   |
| Government's famine policy                 | ib    |
| The Maharaja of Darbhanga on the famine    | ib    |

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee by the Indians | ib  |
| Sir Alexander Mackenzie's recovery                | 391 |
| The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee            | ib  |
| The best way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee     | ib  |

## URIA PAPERS.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The weather and want of fodder and water  | ib |
| Raja Baikunthanath De's exemplary charity | ib |

|   | Page. |
|---|-------|
| The Simla exodus                          | 391   |
| A bad bridge                              | ib    |
| Theft and dacoity in the Cuttack district | 392   |
| Ill-treatment of Indians in Natal         | ib    |
| The Mahanadi bridge at Sambalpur          | ib    |
| The roads in the Sambalpur Municipality   | ib    |

## ASSAM PAPERS.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| The begar system in Assam                      | ib  |
| The coolies in the Assam tea-gardens           | ib  |
| A church in Silchar adorned at the public cost | 393 |
| Mr. Cotton's attitude towards the Assam Press  | ib  |
| Mr. Cotton's kindness to a convict             | ib  |
| Jail labour on Sundays                         | ib  |
| The Sessions Judge of Cachar                   | ib  |
| The Assam Police                               | ib  |

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.             | Names of Newspapers.            | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week.                | REMARKS. |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>BENGALI.</b> |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>  |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| 1               | "Bangavasi" ...                 | Calcutta              | 20,000                          | 1st May, 1897.   |          |
| 2               | "Basumati" ...                  | Ditto                 | .....                           | 6th ditto.   |          |
| 3               | "Hitaisi" ...                   | Ditto                 | 800                             | 4th ditto.   |          |
| 4               | "Hitavadi" ...                  | Ditto                 | About 4,000                     | 30th April, 1897.  |          |
| 5               | "Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...          | Ditto                 | 1,250                           | 1st May, 1897.   |          |
| 6               | "Navayuga" ...                  | Ditto                 | 290                             |  |          |
| 7               | "Sahachar" ...                  | Ditto                 | About 500                       | 28th April, 1897.  |          |
| 8               | "Samay" ...                     | Ditto                 | 3,000                           | 30th April and 7th May, 1897.                                      |          |
| 9               | "Sanjivani" ...                 | Ditto                 | 3,000                           | 1st May, 1897.   |          |
| 10              | "Som Prakash" ...               | Ditto                 | 800                             | 3rd ditto.   |          |
| 11              | "Sulabh Samachar" ...           | Ditto                 | .....                           | 1st ditto.   |          |
| 12              | "Vikrampur" ...                 | Ditto                 | 200                             | 30th April 1897.   |          |
| <i>Daily.</i>   |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| 1               | "Banga Vidya Prakashika"        | Ditto                 | 300                             | 29th and 30th April and 1st and 3rd to 7th May, 1897.              |          |
| 2               | "Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."  | Ditto                 | 1,000                           | 3rd to 6th May, 1897.  |          |
| 3               | "Samvad Prabhakar" ...          | Ditto                 | 1,132                           | 23rd, 26th to 29th April and 1st and 3rd to 6th and 7th May, 1897. |          |
| 4               | "Samvad Purnachandrodaya"       | Ditto                 | 200                             | 30th April and 1st and 3rd to 6th May, 1897.                       |          |
| 5               | "Sulabh Dainik" ...             | Ditto                 | Read by 3,000                   | 30th April and 1st and 3rd to 7th May, 1897.                       |          |
| <b>HINDI.</b>   |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>  |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| 1               | "Bharat Mitra" ...              | Calcutta              | 2,000                           | 29th April, 1897.  |          |
| 2               | "Hindi Bangavasi" ...           | Ditto                 | 10,000                          | 3rd May, 1897.   |          |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b> |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>  |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| 1               | "Hublul Mateen" ...             | Ditto                 | 500                             | 3rd May, 1897.   |          |
| <b>URDU.</b>    |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>  |                                 |                       |                                 |  |          |
| 1               | "Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." | Calcutta              | 310                             | 29th April, 1897.  |          |
| 2               | "General and Gauharisafi"       | Ditto                 | 330                             | 30th ditto.  |          |



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|-----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
|     | <b>BENGALI.</b>                                 | <b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>        |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Fortnightly.</i>                             |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Ulubaria Darpan" ...                           | Ulubaria ...                    | 550                             |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Bankura Darpan" ...                            | Bankura ...                     | 500                             | 1st May, 1897.                                      |  |
| 2   | "Burdwan Sanjivani" ...                         | Burdwan ...                     | 250                             | 27th April, 1897.                                   |  |
| 3   | "Chinsura Vartavaha" ...                        | Chinsura ...                    | 620                             | 2nd May, 1897.                                      |  |
| 4   | "Education Gazette" ...                         | Hooghly ...                     | 1,280                           | 30th April, 1897.                                   |  |
|     | <b>BENGALI.</b>                                 | <b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>     |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...                      | Murshidabad ...                 | 696                             | 28th April, 1897.                                   |  |
| 2   | "Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...                    | Berhampore ...                  | 300                             | .....   | This paper is neither regularly published nor regularly issued.  |
| 3   | "Pratihar" ...                                  | Ditto ...                       | 603                             | 30th April, 1897.                                   |  |
|     | <b>URIYA.</b>                                   | <b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>         |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...                      | Bamra in the Central Provinces. | .....                           | 17th March, 1897.                                   | This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained. |
| 2   | "Samvad Vahika" ...                             | Balasore ...                    | 190                             | 18th ditto.   |  |
| 3   | "Uriya and Navasamvad" ...                      | Ditto ...                       | 309                             | 17th ditto.   |  |
| 4   | "Utkal Dipika" ...                              | Cuttack ...                     | 480                             | 20th ditto.   |  |
|     | <b>HINDI.</b>                                   | <b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>          |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Monthly.</i>                                 |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Bihar Bandhu" ...                              | Bankipur ...                    | About 600                       |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Aryavarta" ...                                 | Dinapur ...                     | 1,000                           | 24th April and 1st May, 1897.                       |  |
|     | <b>URDU.</b>                                    |                                 |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...                         | Bankipur ...                    | 500                             | 9th and 30th April, 1897.                           |  |
| 2   | "Gaya Punch" ...                                | Gaya ...                        | 400                             | 26th ditto.   |  |
|     | <b>BENGALI.</b>                                 | <b>BHAGALPUR DIVISION.</b>      |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Fortnightly.</i>                             |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Gaur Varta" ...                                | Malda ...                       | .....                           |   |  |
|     | <b>BENGALI.</b>                                 | <b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>       |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Weekly.</i>                                  |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Hindu Ranjika" ...                             | Boalia, Rajshahi ...            | 243                             | 28th April, 1897.                                   | This paper is not regularly published for want of type.  |
| 2   | "Rangpur Dikprakash" ...                        | Kakina, Rangpur ...             | 180                             | .....   |  |
|     | <b>HINDI.</b>                                   |                                 |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Monthly.</i>                                 |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." | Darjeeling ...                  | 700                             |   |  |
|     | <b>BENGALI.</b>                                 | <b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>          |                                 |   |  |
|     | <i>Fortnightly.</i>                             |                                 |                                 |   |  |
| 1   | "Kasipur Nivasi" ...                            | Kasipur, Barisal ...            | 315                             |   |  |



| No.                                  | Names of newspapers.         | Place of publication. | Reported number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| <i>Weekly.</i>                       |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| 1                                    | "Barisal Hitaishi" ...       | Barisal ...           | .....                           |   |          |
| 2                                    | "Charu Mihir" ...            | Mymensingh ...        | 900                             | 26th April, 1897.                                   |          |
| 3                                    | "Dacca Prakash" ...          | Dacca ...             | 2,400                           | 2nd May, 1897.                                      |          |
| 4                                    | "Sanjay" ...                 | Faridpur ...          | .....                           | 30th April, 1897.                                   |          |
| 5                                    | "Saraswat Patra" ...         | Dacca ...             | About 500                       |   |          |
| <i>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</i>          |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>                       |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| 1                                    | "Dacca Gazette" ...          | Dacca ...             | 500                             | 3rd May, 1897.                                      |          |
| <i>BENGALI. CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</i> |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i>                  |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| 1                                    | "Tripura Prakash" ...        | Comilla ...           | 900                             |   |          |
| <i>Weekly.</i>                       |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| 1                                    | "Sansodhini" ...             | Chittagong ...        | 120                             | 2nd, 9th and 30th April, 1897.                      |          |
| <i>BENGALI. ASSAM.</i>               |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i>                  |                              |                       |                                 |   |          |
| 1                                    | "Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" | Sylhet ...            | .....                           |   |          |
| 2                                    | "Silchar" ..                 | Silchar, Cachar ...   | .....                           | 13th and 30th April, 1897.                          |          |



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

*Al Punch* of the 30th April says that the Amir's pamphlet on a *Jehād*, and his expulsion of the Mahmood Commission, have actually thrown the Government of India into a state of bewilderment. In the opinion of the

AL PUNCH,  
April 30th, 1897.

The Government's view of the Amir's attitude.

Government the Amir is a ferocious Pathan, who, on the slightest provocation, will not hesitate to measure his strength with the British Government in India, and to carry into effect what he has preached in his *Jehād* pamphlet. Every means is being employed to lower the Amir in the estimation of the Indian people. Forts are being built on the Afghan frontier in order to avert an Afghan invasion of India, as it is suspected that some day or other the ferocious Afghan may overrun the Panjab.

2. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st May writes that, in Jessore, the Musalman inhabitants of every village are praying for the welfare of the Sultan. There are few Musalmans in India who will not sympathise with the

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
May 1st, 1897.

The Indian Musalman's sympathy with the Sultan.

Sultan in his danger.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th April says that the reform effected in the Bengal police, within the last four or five years, at

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 26th, 1897.

Reform of the Bengal police.

a large cost in the shape of an increase of the number of Sub-Inspectorships and of the employment of only educated men to vacant Sub-Inspectorships, means only a formal and superficial change in the police administration, the real character of the Bengal police remaining much the same as before. Letters, diaries, &c., are now in most cases written in English, and the harsh vocabulary of the police is now very probably concealed under the glossy garb which civilisation wears. The processes formerly resorted to in thanas for extorting confessions have also probably undergone some change. But with all this the police has not become a whit more honest or mindful of its duties. No improvement is noticed either in the suppression and prevention of crime, or in the apprehension of criminals. Government cannot long remain indifferent to this state of things. The police administration is closely connected with the administration of justice, and failure of justice frequently takes place, because neither the people nor the judiciary have any confidence in the police.

4. The same paper says that the Arms Act, whatever might have been the object which prompted it, has proved a source

CHARU MIHIR.

Licenses for arms in certain parts of the Mymensingh district.

of great hardship to poor people. The large number of people inhabiting those portions of Sherpur, Susung and Alap Singh, which lie near hills, have to suffer constantly from the depredations of wild beasts, such as bears, boars, buffaloes and tigers. In any happy country the Government itself would have supplied these people with arms for the protection of life and property; but not to speak of a gratuitous supply of arms, these people cannot obtain even passes to keep them, except at great cost and trouble. A man must first come from his distant home to the Magistrate for a pass and procure a favourable police report, which cannot be had for less than Rs. 15. To do this he must stop his agricultural work and dance attendance in Court for days together. There is besides the trouble of propitiating the *amla* and getting the gun marked. How many people can procure passes at so much cost and trouble?

5. The following appears in an article communicated to the *Hitavadi* of the 30th April:—

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

Recrudescence of crime in the country.

How is it that the English rule, under which princes and paupers enjoy equal rights and privileges, has lost its vigour all on a sudden? How is it that the British administration, instead of repressing the wicked any longer, is as it were offering encouragement to them? What defect or negligence has been suddenly discovered in the English rulers, that the wicked all round are dancing in joy



and are enacting horrid scenes of oppression? These oppressions are being committed, not in remote desolate tracts, but close to the metropolis and under the very shadow of the Viceregal throne.

There is now great unrest under the administration of those Englishmen to whom India once joyfully surrendered herself in recognition of their prowess. It seems as if the wicked feel that England's old vigour has vanished and her former respect for justice is gone. This is why they venture to raise their heads and commit horrid oppressions in defiance of the authorities. The people tremble everywhere for their life, honour and property. They can neither eat nor sleep in peace and they are in such fear as seizes the animal which is being led to the sacrificial altar. Though protected by the strong hand of England, they feel helpless, unprotected and forlorn. Here you find a group of despondent people robbed of their everything by robbers, and there you find a whole neighbourhood excited by the carrying off of a wife sleeping in the arms of her husband.

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

6. A correspondent of the same paper complains that, out of spite against some Hindu milkmen who had refused to supply him with curds for a feast, Syed Ali Ulla, a respectable Musalman gentleman of Kushtia, killed 25 cows near a public road. In order to overawe the Hindus, the Syed had kept ready a number of lathials.

Cow-slaughter at Kushtia.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.

7. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 1st May complains that, during the last Basanti Puja festival, the Musalmans of Pandua, in the Hooghly district, wounded the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus by desecrating their idol and forcibly preventing them from consigning it to water. The correspondent further writes that the inhabitants of Pandua, being mostly Musalmans, the Hindus could not for a long time perform their *pujas* and other religious ceremonies in safety. It was through the exertions of the late lamented Rai Kristo Das Pal Bahadur that the matter was brought to the notice of the Government, and the Government, in its letter No. 3036, dated the 22nd September 1876, ordered the District Magistrate of Hooghly to take steps to prevent Musalman interference with the performance of their *pujas* and other religious ceremonies by the Hindus. The Government distinctly ordered the Magistrate to look upon such interference as unlawful, and an assembly of five or more Musalmans on the public road, through which a Hindu religious procession passed, as an unlawful assembly. According to the Government letter, Musalmans forming an unlawful assembly in this way should be promptly arrested by the police and sent up to Hooghly by the earliest train available. These strict measures had their effect, and since the above order was passed, the Hindus have been performing their religious ceremonies without let or hindrance. Of late, however, the Musalmans have set this order at defiance.

Musalman high-handedness in  
Pandua in the Hooghly district.

BANGAVASI.

8. A correspondent of the same paper writes that, on the 2nd April last, there was a daring dacoity in the house of Dhirnarayan De of Chakuar Sing, a village in the Debra thana of the Midnapore district. The dacoits, who mustered fifty or sixty strong, broke into the house at 10 P.M. and pillaged for two long hours. They carried away valuables and ornaments worth Rs. 1,500. A number of villagers came to the rescue, but could not eventually dare to oppose the dacoits. The police have failed to trace the offenders. A few days after there was a dacoity in the house of Tezi Pal of Changal, in the same district. The dacoits had coats on and hurricane-lanterns in their hands. Valuables worth about Rs. 10,000 were carried away. The police have failed in this case, too, to trace the offenders. In the course of the last two or three months there have, moreover, been cases of theft in several houses in Palasi, in the same district.

Theft and dacoity in Midnapore.

BANGAVASI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper complains that there was a theft in the house of the late Yajneswar Pramanik of Hasanhati, in the Kulna Subdivision of the Burdwan district. The thief, a woman, was caught redhanded and made over to the police. No police inquiry, however, has been made.

A thief not prosecuted.



10. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st May complains that one, Hesta Sonthal of Harhiargarha, has lodged a complaint in the Bankura criminal court to the effect that one, Prasad Sonthal, fraudulently recruited his daughter Bhag Mejbani, aged 12 or 13, and sent her to Assam. The defendant is a rich owner of a cooly depôt, and the complainant finds it very difficult to successfully proceed against him. His mukhtar has not yet been able to ascertain the date on which his case is going to be heard. He fears that the case may be heard any day in his absence, and decided *ex parte* against him. It is to be hoped that the Court will duly inform the complainant of the date of the hearing of his case.

Here is another case of fraudulent cooly recruitment. Nitya Bhumijani, daughter of Arjun Bhumij of Khayerbani, in Kotulpur, suddenly disappeared from her father's home. She now writes to her father from Mathurapur, Post-office Sukerai, Sibsagar, that she was forcibly recruited by Kunja Kumar of Susinarha, a village in the Indas thana. Arjun Bhumij is at a loss what to do.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
May 1st, 1897.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th April would have been glad if jury trial could be satisfactorily conducted in the Mymensingh district without the assistance of jurors belonging to the legal profession, for pleaders and mukhtars suffer much pecuniary loss by being required to serve as jurors. But in Mymensingh there are few properly educated persons besides lawyers. It was in consideration of the numerical strength of the lawyer class in Mymensingh, that Mr. Harding and some of his predecessors recommended, at the earnest request of this paper, that jury trial should be extended to it. If the writer had known that lawyers would be excluded from the jury list, he would never have involved the district in this new danger by making repeated prayers for the introduction of jury trial. It is reassuring to know that Mr. Anderson, the present District Judge, will write to Government on the subject. A well reasoned expostulation by the Magistrate, too, may change the views of Government. The people here unanimously say:—"We do not want jury trial without lawyer jurors. Save us from this danger."

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 26th, 1897.

Government's object in exempting lawyers from service as jurors is probably good, but many people are imputing to it sinister motives in this connection. They have an impression that the present Government is bent upon accomplishing by crooked means what Sir Charles Elliott was for effecting openly. They say that, by excluding lawyers from the list, Government has adopted a sure means of bringing jury trial into disrepute, and that it will soon abolish it on the ground of its having proved a failure.

The people often wrongly find fault with Government without understanding its motives in doing an act. But one circumstance, in connection with this exclusion of lawyers from the jury list, strikes the writer as rather strange. The writer is not aware what Government has done in regard to other districts, but it never asked the opinion of the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh on this point. It is for Sir Alexander Mackenzie to judge whether it was right to pass so important an order without making an enquiry into local circumstances, and without asking the opinion of the responsible head of the Judicial administration in the district. The writer does not know whether Sir Alexander has passed this order of his own motion or at the direction of the Supreme Government. Bengal, however, holds him responsible for this dirty affair.

12. The same paper says that the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Ganganarayan Roy, sentenced one Sudhan Bepari *alias* Tari Shaikh to 15 stripes and the Assistant Surgeon, Purna Chandra Purkayet, certified him as fit to receive the sentence. The whipping was, in this case, administered, not by the *chaprasi*, who usually whips, but by an old *chaprasi*, and yet Tari Shaikh fainted away after the fourth stripe, so that the Deputy Magistrate had to remit the remaining stripes. It is not easy to understand how the Assistant Surgeon certified the man as fit to bear 15 stripes. Generally speaking, this inhuman punishment of whipping is one which cannot be approved of.

CHARU MIHIR



BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
April 27th, 1897.

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 27th April has the following on the Lieutenant-Governor's Notification, exempting legal practitioners from liability to serve as jurors or assessors.

The Notification appears, at first sight, to be harmless and insignificant, but it is, in fact, a dangerous and serious one. This Notification will do what Sir Charles Elliott's notorious Jury Notification could not do. Sir Charles' Notification was a plain, undisguised one. It made no secret of its motive, and openly proposed to abolish trial by jury in certain cases. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Notification is like a jar of poison with a layer of nectar at the mouth. The public will not easily discover or discern its real character. It will not give rise to that agitation which followed in the wake of the Jury Notification of Sir Charles Elliott.

The Notification in question will virtually abolish trial by jury. Most of the zamindars and talukdars in the mufassal, being Honorary Magistrates, cannot serve as jurors or assessors. If you exempt legal practitioners from jury service, you leave very few men in the mufassal qualified for that service. Sir Alexander's Jury Notification is, we therefore say, a dart secretly and treacherously aimed at the jury system. Jury trial in this country is an eye-sore to the Government, and who can say that the Notification in question is not meant to be its death-blow?

The Notification, to speak the least of it, is ill-timed. The country is in the midst of famine and plague. But still the people, with their characteristic loyalty, are preparing to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen-Empress. Why this dart in the dark, this cause of sorrow in the midst of rejoicing?

The Notification is not likely to be opposed in the way that Sir Charles Elliott's Jury Notification was. It will benefit legal practitioners by saving them the trouble of serving on the jury. They are not, therefore, likely to take part in an agitation against the Notification, but without their co-operation no agitation is likely to succeed.

SAHACHAR,  
April 28th, 1897.

14. The *Sahachar* of the 28th April has the following:—

The quarrel between the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court.

We have great respect for Sir Alexander Mackenzie, because we believe him to be a sincere well-wisher of Bengal. We believe that whatever His Honour does is calculated to benefit the country, and even when His Honour reprimands us, we take reprimand for reward. But Sir Alexander's action in regard to the High Court has greatly pained us, and we must ask His Honour's pardon for saying that, on this one occasion, we believe him to be in the wrong. On assuming the reins of Government, Sir Alexander assured us that he would never interfere with the independence of the High Court. He was perfectly right in giving this assurance, for it is not politic to interfere with the independence of the highest Court of Justice in the land. But, unfortunately, from the very beginning of English rule in this country, the executive has always striven to curtail the powers of the High Court. It was only for a few years, during which that dauntless man and profound lawyer, Sir Barnes Peacock, was at the head of the High Court Bench, that Government, from a fear of his independence and respect for his learning, desisted from this attempt. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's predecessor, Sir Charles Elliott, never shrank for a moment, either from quarrelling with the High Court, or from endeavouring to curtail its independence. And in his quarrels he invariably obtained the support of the Government of India. In England the executive can never interfere with the judiciary, the latter being only subordinate to the Lord Chancellor. But India seems to be governed on a different principle.

Promise is easier than performance. It is true that Sir Alexander Mackenzie promised that he would not interfere with the High Court; but it was too much for his patience to hear that the Subordinate Judge of Faizpur had taken six months' time to try a single suit. He expressed his displeasure not only against the Subordinate Judge in question, but also against the High Court. According to the *Indian Daily News*, the Lieutenant-Governor's strictures pained and offended the High Court. The High Court, indeed, had every right to be offended, because a criticism of its actions, or of the actions of the



judiciary under it, was quite outside the Lieutenant-Governor's province. It is the High Court alone which possesses the right to criticise the acts of the subordinate judiciary. And that Court is all the more offended because the Lieutenant-Governor has laid it down as a principle that when the Government pays the subordinate judiciary, it has a right to criticise their work. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is surely labouring under a mistake. In England and every other civilised country the judiciary is paid by the Government, but in no country does the Government, on that account, claim a right to interfere with their independence.

These quarrels with the High Court should be settled once for all. It is not good for the Administration that its different departments should quarrel with one another. Besides, it is in the highest degree undesirable that the executive should be constantly falling out with the Court which sits at the head of the judicial administration. The quarrel, however, will not be easily settled. Sir Francis Maclean is known to be too independent a man to surrender a jot of ground to the executive Government, nor is the Government of India or the Secretary of State likely to decide the matter against the Lieutenant-Governor. The best thing to do, under the circumstances, would be to refer the matter to Parliament and get its decision thereon. Such a decision will effectually put a stop to further quarrels.

15. The *Sarjay* of the 30th April complains of the prevalence of gross nepotism in the Civil Courts of Faridpur. Few who are not related either to the sarishtadar or to the head-clerk of the Judge's Court have any chance of securing permanent appointments in those Courts. Thus Umacharan Rahut, an apprentice in the Madaripur munsifi, had to retire, in sheer disgust, after service in that capacity for 11 years. In the same way, Babus Dines Chandra Sen, Harilal Chakravarti and Basanta Kumar Roy retired after a service of four years or more as apprentices. That these apprentices were not incompetent men will appear from the fact that every one of them has since secured an appointment elsewhere, and that Babu Dinesh Chandra has risen in a very short time to be the head-clerk of the Civil Surgeon's office. Some apprentices, such as Babus Chandra Kanta Roy and Harendra Chandra Mukherji, have secured appointments by making direct representations to the Judge.

The great majority of the local court *amla* are either Dacca men or Vikrampur men. The District Judge can put a stop to such nepotism by insisting that each candidate should himself write his application and state therein the period for which he has served as an apprentice, and the acting appointments he has held, as well as his relationship, if any, to any one in the office. The sarishtadar, too, should be required to state those particulars in the list of candidates which he submits to the Judge.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 30th April says that Sir Alexander Mackenzie means to abolish the jury system by artful means. He has done great harm to the country by exempting pleaders and mukhtars from service as jurors or assessors. Sir Charles Elliott was an outspoken man, and did not know how to send poisoned shafts from concealed places. It is hoped that the Viceroy will annul the Lieutenant-Governor's mischievous order.

17. The same paper about Mr. Ainslie's proceedings at Govindapur:—  
Rajawant Sing and Mulchand were sent to Mr. Ainslie for trial on the 19th December 1896. Mr. Ainslie ordered their detention in *hajat* for seven days, pending a police enquiry. On the 26th December the police again took the accused before Mr. Ainslie with a report of its investigation, but the case was adjourned to the 31st. On the 28th December an application was made for the enlargement of Rajawant on bail, but bail was refused on the ground that the accused had been arrested on a suspicion of complicity in several cases of dacoity, and that the police investigation had not yet been finished. On the 31st December the case was adjourned to the 15th January on the ground that the investigation was not yet over. On the 15th January a report was called for from the Police Inspector, and the case was adjourned to the 22nd January. On the last mentioned date, finding it hopeless to sustain a charge of dacoity, Mr. Ainslie

SANJAY,  
April 30th, 1897.

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

HITAVADI.



determined to record proceedings under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and adjourned the case to the 6th February. But the Magistrate again took up the case on the 29th January, and having recorded proceedings under section 110 of the above Code, postponed the case to the 10th February, and ordered that the two accused should be tried together.

It is needless to say that section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is the last weapon that a Magistrate has recourse to when he finds every other means of harassing an intended victim ineffectual. The case was not tried on the 10th February, because one of the accused was ill. On the 25th February two witnesses were examined, and the case was adjourned to the next day. On the 26th February Rajawant's pleader having come to know that the case was now being conducted under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, again applied for bail, which was refused, although a Magistrate has no choice but to grant bail in such cases. The case was now adjourned to the 13th March, on which date, after two witnesses of the prosecution and one of the accused had been examined, the case was postponed to the 15th. On the 15th Mr. Ainslie could not make time to take up the case, and therefore adjourned it to the following day. On the 16th the witnesses of Mulchand not being present, the case was adjourned to the 29th. Mulchand's witnesses not being present, on the latter date, too, the case was again postponed to the 13th April, and Rajawant, too, was detained in *hajut*, although all his witnesses had been examined.

In the meantime Mr. Maguire came to Manbhum as Deputy Commissioner, and on paying a visit to the Govindapur jail, found that 44 out of the 46 prisoners confined there were *hajut* prisoners, and that most of the latter had been *challaned* under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mr. Maguire was taken aback at this state of things, and directed the *hajut* prisoners *challaned* under section 110 of the above Code to apply to him for bail. When some of them did so, he recorded an order on their applications to the effect that it was illegal to detain them in *hajut*, and that Mr. Ainslie should pass proper orders.

On the 13th April application was again made on behalf of Rajawant for bail. Mr. Ainslie had no longer the courage to refuse. He, therefore, passed orders that Rajawant and Mulchand should be released each on two personal securities of Rs. 200 each, but at the same time left verbal instructions with the Court Sub-Inspector that the bail of pleaders or mukhtars should not be accepted.

Rajawant has thus rotted in *hajut* for four months, and has lost everything in this harassing suit. All this makes one doubt whether one is really living under British rule.

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

18. The same paper thus comments upon Mr. Kiran Chandra De's sentence in the Ranaghat railway case:—

The Ranaghat railway case. When our agent applied to Mr. De for a copy of his sentence, he at first refused to give us a copy on the ground that he would be abused when his sentence was read. On our agent's soothing him a little, he granted a copy, observing that he did not care for abuse, but was at the same time importunate that the abuse should not be very strong.

Mr. De may set his heart at rest on this score. It is impossible for us to abuse him, for we cannot find words in the Bengali language strong enough to characterise his sentence. Mr. De is a Bengali, and must, therefore, be supposed to retain, in spite of his sojourn in England and of his English hat and coat, some trace of a Bengali's feelings. We would, therefore, ask him whether he could have been satisfied with such a sentence if the outrage had been committed upon a female member of his own household.

Was Lawson's offence merely one of outraging female modesty? Can it not far more properly be characterised as an attempt at rape? Collins lowered the gas from outside, and yet was not held guilty of aiding and abetting. Even the most biased English Magistrate would not have probably ventured to bring about such a miscarriage of justice as Mr. De has done in the present case. By this sentence of his, Mr. De has covered all his countrymen with shame.



We humbly entreat Government to appeal for the sake as well of humanity as of its own reputation and popularity, for an enhancement of the sentences passed on Lawson and Collins. The people are greatly alarmed, for female honour is not at all safe on railways. To whom are the people to look up for redress if not to Government and the railway authorities? An endeavour should be made to make the punishment of the ruffians exemplary.

19. The *Samay* of the 30th April has the following on the ear-pulling case in the Calcutta Police Court:—

The ear-pulling case.

Mr. Pearson's conduct strikes us as strange. His judgment and legal acumen are, indeed, surprising. The question at issue in the case was whether Mr. Walmsley insulted the complainant by pulling him by the ear. The Magistrate accepted the accused's version of the case, and held that he had no intention to insult the complainant, who ought not to have taken the ear-pulling in a serious light, the accused being his official superior. This argument is worthless. Even a boy of ten can understand that the accused meant to insult the complainant by pulling him by the ear. But even if Mr. Walmsley's version be true, even if it be true that he did not mean to insult the complainant, should he be declared innocent? Whatever his intentions, had not Mr. Walmsley's action the effect of insulting Sasi Babu? Moreover, judged exclusively by intention, a person can scarcely be convicted of any offence. Take a typical case. Ram fires at Syam, and Syam dies. Ram, when prosecuted, pleads that he had no intention of killing Syam, and that he fired at him only by way of an experiment. Would Mr. Pearson accept Ram's version and acquit him? Most probably he would do so not in the case of Ram, but in a similar case in which the accused was a European.

Let us now put a simple question to Mr. Pearson. If he comes to court late one day, and his official superior, Mr. Justice Ghose, or Mr. Justice Bannerji, or a European Judge of the High Court, pulls him by the ear, will he take it complacently? We put such a preposterous question simply because the British Government boasts of an impartial administration of justice. The Magistrate is, moreover, of opinion that as the complainant did not cry when he was pulled by the ear, he was not offended or annoyed. The fact, however, is that the complainant pocketed the insult because he believed that a cry or a protest would have gone hard against him, and might even make his European master thrash him and kick him out of the office.

One word more, and we have done. When Mr. Pearson at first refused to entertain the case, it was naturally to be expected that he would not do justice to the complainant. The case ought, therefore, to have been tried by a different Court. The Magistrate's decision in the case will only serve to strengthen the impression in the public mind that no native should expect justice against a European.

Being a well-to-do man, Sasi Babu ought to have done something better than accepting a petty post in a private firm. It is a matter of regret that a man of his position in society should be insulted in the way in which he was. The insolence of low class Europeans towards respectable natives is increasing, and threatens to become a source of great anxiety to the Government.

20. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st May makes the following comments on the jury notification lately published in the *Calcutta Gazette*:—

The Jury Notification.

The Indian must carry out as an obedient slave the behests of the all-powerful British Government. That Government need not, therefore, have recourse to subterfuge or deception. The jury system is a purely English institution, transplanted to this country. English education has taught us to appreciate its merits and make a proper use of it. But the Government seems to have made up its mind, we do not know why, to abolish it. Sir Charles Elliott once openly proposed to abolish it, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie has of late had recourse to underhand means to strike it at its root. His Honour has issued a notification exempting legal practitioners from the liability to serve as jurors. Few persons other than legal practitioners are fit for jury service, or are likely to discharge jurors' duties properly. Therefore to exempt them from jury service is to virtually abolish trial by jury. Who are there among Hindus and Musalmans, with the exception of legal practitioners, that have the hardihood to declare an independent verdict—a verdict, that is, which is likely not

SAMAY,  
April 30th, 1897.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.



to agree with the Judge's decision? The Judge will consequently act in future as he likes, and there will be none to oppose his will. There is nothing to be sorry for in this. The less the Indians co-operate with Englishmen on terms of equality in sending their countrymen to jail the better.

The legal practitioners of Berhampore, however, have resolved to represent to the Lieutenant-Governor that they do not wish to be exempted from the liability to serve on the jury. Let us see what move the Lieutenant-Governor now makes.

SULABH DAINIK,  
May 1st, 1897.

21. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 1st May comments upon the decision of

Mr. Kiran Chandra De, Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat, in the case of Lawson and Collins, charged with outraging female modesty in a moving train. In the Rajabala case evidence was not so convincing as in the present case. Rajabala's character also appeared to be suspicious in the eye of many. But here is a case in which the accused are charged with outraging the modesty of respectable women in a moving train. The guilt of the accused is conclusively proved, and yet they are let off with a light punishment. Mr. De's decision has dissatisfied the public, who are crying shame on him. It strikes them as strange that, being himself a Bengali, the Magistrate should inflict such a light punishment on men who tried to violate the chasity of a Bengali woman.

The writer proceeds as follows :—

Mr. De, you are a distinguished Civilian and a brilliant star in the judicial firmament of Bengal. We have something to say to you. In the *Hitavadi* case a man was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for libelling a woman. But you have very leniently dealt with men who were charged with an attempt at rape. Is an attempt at rape a less serious offence than libel? You may say that the charge of an attempt at rape was not proved, but you have convicted the accused of outraging female modesty, of travelling without a proper pass and ticket, of entering a female carriage, of pretending to hold the office of ticket-collectors. Were not these charges serious enough, and have you met the ends of justice by the punishment you have inflicted? Babu Satis Chandra Basu had a motive in prosecuting the man who complained against his official superior, the Magistrate. What motive had you in letting off the accused with a slight punishment? Your leniency in this case has stricken terror into the public mind.

The writer concludes as follows :—

It is to be hoped that the Government will call for the records of the case and try to have Mr. De's decision revised. The Indian public will lose all faith in the impartiality of the British administration of justice if an exemplary punishment is not inflicted on the accused in the case under notice.

(c)—Jails.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.

22. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st May prays for the release of the editor of

A prayer for the release of the editor of the *Hitavadi*.

the *Hitavadi* from jail on the occasion of the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Let the question of justice and injustice, guilt and innocence alone.

The very act of going to jail is more than a severe and degrading punishment to a Brahman. Incarceration for eight or nine months cannot add anything to the severity or degradation of such a man's punishment. It only deepens the wound inflicted on the heart.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,  
May 1st, 1897.

23. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st May approves of the simplification of the

Simplification of the Lower Primary Examination course.

Lower Primary Examination course, and thanks Dr. Martin and Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose for what they have done to effect this much desired reform.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SAHACHAR,  
April 28th, 1897.

24. The *Sahachar* of the 28th April has received complaints of water

Water scarcity in the 24-Parganas district.

scarcity from the villages of Joynagar, Baruipur, Rajpur, Bhatpara, Naihati, Garifa and Halisahar in the 24-Parganas district. The acutest suffering



prevails in Elachi within the jurisdiction of the Rajpur Municipality. The people there are drinking the water of the Maja Ganga, which is worse than sewage water.

25. The *Hitavadi* of the 30th April publishes the following reports of water scarcity:—

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

Reports of water scarcity. *Ghatbhog, Khulna*.—Great scarcity of water prevails in this and adjoining villages, so much so that theft of water has begun to take place.

*Dostgram, Nadia*.—The three tanks in the village are completely dry. Appeals to the District Magistrate have borne no fruit.

26. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 30th April complains of great scarcity of water at Kaiarbil within the Chakaria thana, in the Chittagong district.

SANSODHINI,  
April 30th, 1897.

27. The same paper complains that the District Board having, on the expiry of the former lease, refused to lease the Muarir Ghât ferry for the smaller bid which was offered, there was absolutely no arrangement for some time for ferrying over passengers, and one Ananda was drowned in attempting to cross the stream.

SANSODHINI.

28. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st May complains of water scarcity in Nutanchati, a village under the Bankura Municipality. The only fresh water tank in the village has run dry; people are drinking foul water. A well should be dug in this village by the Municipality.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
May 1st, 1897.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st May complains of the prevalence of water scarcity in Noakhali town and the adjoining villages. All reservoirs of water have run dry, and cholera has broken out in consequence of the use of foul water.

SANJIVANI,  
May 1st, 1897.

30. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd May observes that something like a code of building regulations should be enforced in the Wari Settlement in Dacca town. It was a condition made with the settlers that they should submit plans before building their houses. This condition, however, is being violated with impunity. The authorities should adopt strict measures to enforce it.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 3rd, 1897.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

31. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th April regrets that the disaster in the Meghna has not received from the press the attention it should. When the Steam Navigation Company began to ply small steamers in charge of inexperienced officers in place of the Government steamer, the people of East Bengal entered a unanimous protest. But that protest was not heeded by Government, because few Englishmen travel by steamer from Goalundo to Narayanganj. If a few Englishmen had been drowned the other day in the Meghna, the howls of the English Press, as well as suits for compensation, would have brought the Company to its senses.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 26th, 1897.

The writer hears that another steamer of the Company was about to be drowned the other day, and it is not improbable that the same causes which have brought about one disaster will lead to others. In the Company's steamers the comfort of female and intermediate class passengers is little attended to, and second and third class passengers, too, have to suffer many inconveniences. These steamers often leave before the arrival of the mail.

The loss of the *Looht* and the selfish conduct of her crew have alarmed the people of East Bengal. It is hoped that an enquiry will be made into the matter by Government, and the result will be published in the Gazette.

32. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the roads in Basa, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, become impassable during the rainy season, so that boys attending the school at Sankrail are often obliged to be absent from school during that season.

CHARU MIHIR.



HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

33. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 30th April complains that intending down-train passengers at Khana junction have now to get into trains from the plague inspection platform, which is not provided with a resting room. Those passengers are expelled from this platform during a plague inspection, and have to wait outside in open air to their great inconvenience.

HITAVADI

34. The same paper says that cases of assault upon women in railway trains, such as those which recently took place at Ranaghat and Baliganj, are no longer few or rare. As matters stand at present, it is not at all safe for women to travel by rail. If, whenever a train stops at a station, a railway officer is present near every female carriage to see that no male can get in, and if every such carriage is provided with a communication cord and, in through trains, with a female railway officer as well, cases like those referred to will become less common.

HITAVADI

35. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the bamboo bridges over the Kana Nadi at Gopalnagar, in the Hooghly district, are not at all safe, and should be replaced by a masonry bridge. The Subdivisional Officer of Serampore has recommended the construction of such a bridge, and the villagers, though poor, have raised a subscription of Rs. 500 for the purpose. It is hoped that the District Board will now bear the remainder of the necessary cost.

HITAVADI

36. Another correspondent of the same paper complains that the down train No. 36, which leaves Burdwan every day at 5-39 (Madras time), is now often 15 to 20 minutes late in reaching Howrah, to the great inconvenience of office employes, and that railway employes force into carriages more than the authorised number of passengers. The correspondent requests that good arrangements may be made for the supply of drinking water at every station in this hot season.

SAMAY,  
April 30th, 1897.

37. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 30th April writes that the down train from Budge-Budge to Calcutta starts at 8-23 A.M. The steamer from Ulubaria to Calcutta reaches Budge-Budge at 8-15, and the passengers wishing to take the train are often disappointed, as they cannot reach the station in time. If the train starts eight minutes later, the passengers, as well as the railway, will be benefited.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.

38. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st May refers to the late railway collision at the Howrah station. It was rumoured that five were killed and twenty-four seriously wounded on the occasion. The railway company have as yet published no report on the subject, which they should immediately do to set the public mind at rest. Basantakumar Singh Rai, of Kalighat, writes in this paper that he was a passenger in the train from Tarkeswar on the 15th April last, and what he saw was this. As the train was steaming into the Howrah station, he received a sudden and violent shock. He clung fast to the railway, but was every moment in danger of being dashed to the floor. There were many seriously wounded. One man in his compartment had his eye pierced, and another had his forehead deeply cut. In the same compartment two men lay prone on the floor, apparently dead. They were shaken, but lay quite motionless. Two other passengers had their heads struck against each other. Alighting on the platform, the correspondent saw seventeen wounded men being conveyed to hospital. Others followed. Babu Haridas Lahiri, of Serampore, writes that twenty or thirty passengers were seriously wounded.

The driver of the train from Tarkeswar has been prosecuted, and the writer understands that the injured passengers have claimed damages from the railway company. In Europe and America heavy damages are claimed and awarded. Accidents on railways in India are mostly due to false economy on the part of the railway authorities. Payment of heavy damages will bring them to their senses, and they will increase the staff, pay them more adequately, and work them less hard.



## (h)—General.

39. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th April says that not even the new rules relating to plague inspection at Khana junction, though better than the old ones, will remove all the inconveniences to which passengers are subjected. Respectable native ladies generally travel in third or intermediate class carriages, and arrangements should have been made for their examination within the carriages. Ladies, too, will not feel safe till the police are strictly instructed not to come near them.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 26th, 1897.

40. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 29th April does not see any reason why the *Englishman* has charged the *Indian Mirror* with sedition for saying that the plague notifications have displeased the Musalmans of Bombay. Certainly the *Englishman* has violated the rules of journalistic etiquette by unreasonably finding fault with the *Indian Mirror*, which said nothing but the truth. It is strange that every criticism of the Government's action by the Native Press should be misconstrued by the Anglo-Indian journalists into sedition and attempt to create disaffection.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
April 29th, 1897.

41. The *Hitavadi* of the 30th April does not know what is in store for the Deputy Telegraph Master of Gauhati. It is said that another serious complaint has been made against him. The complaint that he stole a notice was proved false, and yet Mr. Bamford was only slightly rebuked. It is a matter of regret that the Director-General of Telegraphs should not pay any heed to our repeated request to him to attend to the matter.

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

42. A correspondent of the same paper says that the villages served by the Noadanga Post-office, in the Rangpur district, suffer great inconvenience from the want of a peon. It is hoped that a peon will soon be appointed to that post-office.

HITAVADI.

43. The same paper has received many serious complaints against Babu Pyarimohan Sarkar, Sub-Registrar of Amta. It is difficult to get any document registered at his office without paying five annas in excess of the proper fee to his clerk. The printer of this paper was lately compelled to pay this excess fee in order to get a document registered. Almost no one can get a document registered by Pyari Babu without dancing attendance for several days and without hearing abusive words. Many, therefore, through sheer disgust, get documents registered at Howrah. The Sub-Registrar is an old man of 70 or 72, and has lost all youthful energy.

HITAVADI.

44. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st May expresses its gratitude to the Government for hearing its prayers and giving effect to its suggestions in connection with plague inspection. The writer cannot thank the Government too much for this act of kindness.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.

45. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 1st May complains that the Government clerks at Darjeeling have not this year been supplied with proper house accommodation. The old Court buildings have been set apart for their use, but these being uninhabitable, the clerks have in a body removed to the Lowis Jubilee Sanitarium. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a kind-hearted man, and it is strange that his clerks should be treated in this shabby way during his rule.

MIHIR-O SUDHAKAR,  
May 1st, 1897.

## III.—LEGISLATIVE.

46. The *Som Prakash* of the 3rd May writes as follows:—

The Religious Endowments Bill. We are not in favour of a law for the regulation of religious endowments, and do not, therefore, find ourselves in Mr. Charlu's list of editors of light and leading. We are not, however, sorry for this. Our sorrow is that, in spite of the existence of these men of light and leading, the country should have so many wants and

SOM PRAKASH,  
May 3rd, 1897.



grievances. When subscriptions were invited for a repair of the temple at Puri, these men of light and leading, who are so anxious for the re-excavation of old tanks, were nowhere. It is only when religious endowments are to be converted into public property that these men come out.

But intelligence or want of intelligence has nothing to do with a matter like this. The question is a religious one, and it is, therefore, important to know how far those who support Mr. Charlu's Bill are entitled to speak on the subject. Mr. Charlu would have rendered his position far stronger if he could have produced a number of mahants and maulvis as his supporters.

The mahants nominate only tried disciples as their successors, and it is preposterous to seek to dispossess these men of religious property in virtue of a few printed words. As there are good and bad men in every class, there is nothing surprising in the fact that a mahant here or a mahant there should be found addicted to luxury. That is, therefore, no reason for interfering with religious endowments, which are inviolable in their nature. Again, worldly men can be no fit judges of ascetics. As foul drains are to be found underneath wide streets lined with stately edifices, so the grossest stupidity is to be found under coat and *choga*, and the grossest selfishness under the external glitter of self-government. It is therefore by no means advisable to allow Mr. Charlu's men of light and leading a place within the sacred limits of religious shrines.

Government has, indeed, shown its judgment in remaining neutral in the matter; but it should not have at all allowed the Bill to be introduced.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,  
April 30th, 1897.

47. The *Hitavadi* of the 30th April says that the people of Jhalwar showed signs of joyful excitement in anticipation of Jalim Singh's restoration to the throne on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. This was not liked by the Political Agent, Mr. Crosthwaite, who reported that the people of Jhalwar had rebelled and that Jalim Singh was implicated in the matter. Troops were accordingly sent to Jhalwar. But it is not at all likely that the deposed Jalim Singh, who is living in exile, is in any way concerned in a rebellion in Jhalwar. It should also be carefully ascertained whether there is really a rebellion. If a false report of a rebellion has been sent in, the sender of the report should be condignly punished.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHARU MIHIR,  
April 26th, 1897.

48. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th April complains that the Tangail Relief Sub-Committee is making a shameful display of a contentious spirit. Certain members are so bent upon exercising authority that they frustrate the object of the Committee by creating squabbles in its meetings. The Revd. Mr. Nevill, Vice-President of the Sub-Committee, is the man who heads these members. The Mymensingh Committee has, therefore, resolved upon dismissing him, and it is to be hoped that this will bring the Tangail Sub-Committee to its senses.

CHARU MIHIR.  
1897

49. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Pathali, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, complains that the distress is becoming severer in those parts. Nearly half the population of every village are suffering from hunger. The *khals*, *beels* and tanks are nearly dry.

SANSODHINI,  
April 30th, 1897.

50. A correspondent of the *Sansodhini* of the 30th April says that there is distress both among middle-class people and labourers at Azampur and the neighbouring places in the Chittagong district. Coarse rice is selling at 7 or 8 pice per seer. Labourers cannot get work. Most large families are living upon one meal. Unable to give any food to her crying boy of 8, a woman at Bamansundar first hanged the boy and then herself. Another man in the same house attempted suicide from hunger, but failed. In Jorarganj and Mireswari some have died of starvation and some have committed suicide, unable to bear the pangs of hunger. Najaf Ali Chaudhuri, a respectable resident of Sahebpur, is starving.



51. The *Sanjay* of the 30th April says that in some places in Faridpur people are living upon the spathe of the plantain tree. The family of Toraf, consisting of 9

Distress in Faridpur.

members, and of Samserulla, consisting of 5 members, at Jaykali, within the Ainpur thana, the family of Bachher, consisting of 3 members, at Madhavpur, within the Bhusna thana, and the family of Achhimaddi, consisting of 6 members, at Bagarkandi, are living upon such food and are getting scanty meals of rice at intervals only of three or four days.

Not a day passes on which two to three hundred people do not come to Faridpur for *takavi* advances. Poor cultivators should be granted advances only on their bonds, and the advances should not be very small. At present an interest of eight annas per cent. is being charged. It will be an act of kindness to the poor to reduce the rate.

52. The *Hitavadi* of the 30th April publishes the following reports of food and water scarcity:—

Reports of food and water scarcity.

*Sriula, Khuina.*—Great scarcity of food and water prevails in these parts. More than three hundred people are employed on relief-work at Natona, and yet many who want relief still remain unemployed. Many are applying for seed-grain. The agricultural season will commence in Jaistha, and if cultivators do not carry on cultivation then, the distress will continue. But how are cultivators to live till the next harvest? It is hoped that the local authorities will attend to the matter.

*Bamunpukuria, Nadia.*—Poor people are getting scanty meals of rice at intervals of two or three days, and will die if not promptly relieved.

*Gadaipur, Jangipur subdivision, Murshidabad district.*—Two or three women are suffering extremely from hunger. Many poor families earning ten pice or so per day can hardly procure one daily meal, supposing  $\frac{3}{4}$  seer of rice to cost one anna.

*Dhopadaha, Pabna.*—No rain. Distress becoming severer. Many in the village cannot get two meals a day.

*Dikapsar, Pabna.*—Distress very severe. Only a man here and a man there not troubled by want. Many are getting, at intervals of two or three days, miserable meals consisting of a small quantity of rice boiled with vegetables.

*Banserbada-Pabna.*—The condition of the people very miserable. Their store of grain is exhausted, and the *mahajans* have no longer any grain to lend. People are selling even plough-cattle. Labourers are suffering extremely. A labourer can earn now-a-days 2 annas or so per day, and with that sum it is hardly possible at present to maintain a family of 5 or 6 persons. These men are, therefore, living upon boiled *khud* (broken grains of rice) and arum.

*Harishkul, Dacca.*—Great scarcity of food and water. The cultivators have no seed-grain. Twenty or twenty-five *muchi* families are in great distress. Many are begging about with emaciated children in their arms. Cholera, fever and small-pox have appeared, and there is a cattle-plague. The families of Bihari Muchi, Nadi Muchi and Iswar Muchi are starving.

*Masila, Raniganj.*—Great scarcity of food and water. An appeal to the Magistrate of Raniganj has been so far fruitless.

53. The same paper says that another woman has died of starvation in the relief-house at Kaliganj. Its correspondent

Another death in the Kaliganj relief-house.

reports that the woman, whose name is Lakshmi Bewa, and who had been almost starving for two or three days previously, came to the relief-house to receive rice and waited there till 2 P.M., when she sank from exhaustion. When news of her death reached the thana, an enquiry was made in the following manner:—

*Police officer.*—How did the old woman die?

*Chaukidar.*—Huzoor, she died of starvation.

*Police officer.*—Hold your tongue, *haramsad*. Did she not die of cholera?

*A gentleman.*—Yes, she had diarrhoea, or it may be, she died of heat apoplexy. I saw her smiling an hour before.

No verdict on the old woman's death can be accepted which is not based upon a *post-mortem* examination. Kailasmani and Lakshmi have died within the very precincts of the relief-house. Who shall say, then, what is taking place in remote villages?

*SANJAY,*  
April 30th, 1897.

*HITAVADI,*  
April 30th, 1897.

*HITAVADI.*



BANKURA DARPAN,  
May 1st, 1897.

54. Correspondents of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st May complain of the prevalence of acute scarcity in several villages in the Bankura district.

Distress in Bankura.

*Marhoa.*—The majority of the inhabitants of this village are in acute distress. Kshemi Bauri, an old woman, has been starving several days. Her son, Tanu, earns only two annas per day, with which he has to maintain a family of seven or eight. The following people also are in great distress in the same village :—

|                  |               |          |
|------------------|---------------|----------|
| Hari Singh       | with a family | of five. |
| Baikuntha Singh  | ditto         | of nine. |
| Sarat Khan       | ditto         | of four. |
| Biswa Nath Singh | ditto         | of two.  |
| Bhawani Rai      | ditto         | of one.  |
| Bhairab Garani   | ditto         | of six.  |
| Ganesh Patar     | ditto         | of six.  |
| Kartio Rai       | ditto         | of six.  |
| Akshay Khan      | ditto         | of two.  |

*Sonamukhi.*—Athil Hari, of Sonamukhi, who was so long suffering from acute scarcity, has died. He was, it is true, laid up with fever and cough; but these maladies would not certainly have proved fatal if he had been properly fed and nursed. The case of Atal was brought to the notice of the Sonamukhi Relief Committee, but no steps were taken to save his life. Atal has left a few orphans, who cannot live without the help of the Relief Committee. It is in the contemplation of the authorities to open relief works in Sonamukhi and a few other villages. The sooner these works are opened the better.

The following people are in great distress in Sonamukhi :—

1. *Dinu Lohar of Manohartala.*—A family of eight. Dinu earns a few pice every day by selling *sal* leaves. The family is on the point of starvation.

2. *Revati Lohar of Manohartala.*—A blind old woman with a granddaughter. Lives by begging. In a pitiful condition.

3. *Chandra Sinhi of Dewanbazar.*—A leper aged 50. Frequently starving.

The poor middle classes are in equal distress. The following are some of the pitiable cases :—

1. *Hiru Vaishnav of Dewanbazar.*—Aged 70 or 75 and blind. A family of five with no means of livelihood.

2. *A maji.*—An old man, *Sadgop* by caste. Earns two or three pice a day.

3. *Rasbehari Dutta of Dharmatala.*—A family of six. Rasu was a lac manufacturer. His business is now closed. Is virtually out of employment at present.

4. *A Patar of Manohartala.*—*Tanti* by caste. A family of seven. Earns Rs. 4-4 per month. Condition pitiable.

5. *Trai.*—Absolutely without any means of livelihood.

*Dhiparha.*—The following people are in great distress in this village :—

1. *Jagannath Yugi.*—A weaver by profession. A family of six. Jagannath's loom is broken, and he has not the means to set it up again. Badly in want of relief.

2. *Hriday Ghosh.*—A milkman by profession. His cows have ceased giving milk and have left him bereft of all means of livelihood.

*Gopalnagar.*—A pleader complains of the prevalence of distress in this village and gives the following list of suffering people.

1. *Fakir Malla.*—A family of four. Fakir Malla is an orphan and has an orphan sister. His uncle and aunt also are in great distress. Heavily indebted and without means of livelihood.

2. *Gayaram Dhulla.*—A family of seven. Without employment and means of livelihood.

3. *Kunti Devi.*—Wife of late Haladhar Malla. Absolutely helpless.

4. *The family of late Ganganarayan Dhulla.*—Five members. All in a helpless condition.

5. *The family of late Hriday Malla.*—Five members in a deplorable condition.

6. *Bihari Dhulla.*—A family of five. Condition pitiable.

7. *Jaguman.*—A family of four. Extreme poverty.



8. *Daughter of Haladhar Malla, Umamayi, Durgamani, Beni and widow of Lakshman Malla.*—All in great distress and in urgent want of relief.

The following lower class people also are in great distress :—

1. Krishna Bansi, an old man.
2. Durga Charan Porha, a blind leper.
3. Swami Bami and her blind mother.
4. Raju Muchi and his wife.
5. Ganesh Napit's wife and daughter.
6. Madhu Sen and his son.

These people badly want relief. They should not be allowed to die of starvation in this year of the Diamond Jubilee.

*Onda.*—Acute distress prevails in the villages of Brindabani, Tilabani, Rangametya, Karharbarhi, Napitbanda, Kiyabati, Panbaruj, Nagarberha, Jamjurhi, Patadubi, Dharmaghata, Kumar Dubri and Metalya. The distress baffles description.

*Rampur, Bankura.*—Sibu Madak of this village has been starving for several days.

55. Correspondents of the *Sanjvani* of the 1st May complain of the prevalence of distress in Bengal :—

Distress in Bengal.

*Faridpur.*—Acute distress prevails in the Palang thana of the Faridpur district. All classes, high and low, are in distress. Many Brahman, Vaidya and Kayastha families are on the point of starvation, still they would not beg for help and relief. Many parents are selling their children, and many more are willing to sell if they can get buyers. There are hardly eight or ten *per cent.* of people who are in a position to make the two ends meet. The lower classes are in a deplorable condition. Theft and begging have become their last resource. There has been up to date no death from starvation, but people will die if relief works are not soon opened. Not a moment should be lost in coming to the rescue of the starving people. The route of a railway through Palang has been surveyed. Its earthwork should be soon commenced, so that the starving may get employment and food. The Government has instructed the chaukidars and the panchayets to make a list of poor, old and infirm women having none to look after them. But Government should help not only these helpless women, but also poor families of slender means and able-bodied persons without employment.

*Hazaribagh.*—Famine prevails in many villages near Hazaribagh town. The poor people are on the point of starvation. Relief works on a small scale have been opened. Common rice is selling at seven seers per rupee.

*Rangpur.*—Acute scarcity prevails in Khaturia, a village in the Rangpur district. The stock of food-grains is exhausted. Many are living on wild arum and boiled *kalai*. The people are heavily indebted. They are so poor that they are compelled to keep their children on water only. The Government should lose no time in coming to their help.

*Tangail.*—The distress in Tangail, in the Mymensingh district, has not abated. Babu Pramathanath Rai Chaudhari, zamindar of Santosh, has granted loans to the needy people of Chinakhali, Ramnagar, Bhangabashi, Kasinagar, Bostuntal, &c. But eight or ten people in distress in Chinakhali and Bhangabashi have not yet been granted loans. The zamindar should not overlook them. Most people in the zamindari of Srimati Jahnavi Chaudhurani are in urgent need of loans. Cholera has broken out among the famine-stricken people in consequence of eating bad and unwholesome food.

The people of Mymensingh should come to the relief of the distressed people.

56. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st May publishes a famine picture originally published in the *Graphic*, and writes as follows :—

A famine picture.

There, look at that picture with the eye of a Hindu. In a great war the world loses its heroes, its warlike men. See how the great famine is killing heroes in India. There lies a hero, now reduced to a skeleton. His towering figure is now prostrate, his long arms are shrivelled up, his once muscular and thickset chest is now but a bag of bones. The body that once possessed the strength of an infuriated elephant now lies prostrate. The heart which had a lion's courage has failed. The fiery eyes have lost their

SANJIVANI,  
May 1st, 1897.

BANGAVASI,  
May 1st, 1897.



lustre. The life which was still beating low under the ribs is fast failing. The eyes are about to close for ever.

It is a picture of what has taken place in Motihari in the Champaran district. An Englishman took this picture and got it published in the *Graphic*. Shuddering, we make a present of it to our countrymen.

You who live in palatial buildings, eat princely dinners and drink iced water, look at that corpse of a hero surrounded by jackals and ravenous birds. Look at that living picture of a *Smassan*, of a vast cremation ground, and draw it deep in your heart in lines of blood.

BANGAVARI,  
April 30th, 1897.

57. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of acute scarcity in twenty-four or twenty-five villages in the Faridpur district. Relief is badly wanted.

58. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd May cannot understand why people should be allowed to starve when one crore and twelve lakhs of rupees have accumulated in the Government's famine policy.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
May 3rd, 1897.

Famine Relief Fund. The Government was bound to relieve the distress of the people, even if the funds were not raised. The Government wastes money in every direction, but talk of the saving of the lives of the poor Indian people and the Government will at once plead insolvency. Gigantic preparations have been made to relieve the distress, and it is strange that the Government should heartlessly treat the distressed people. The Punjab Government applied to the central authorities for eleven lakhs of rupees, but has got only four lakhs. This niggardliness will have to answer for many deaths from starvation. Money is pouring in from all directions in aid of the starving millions of India. What is that money for, if it is not utilised in saving human life?

Will the Government remain contented with merry-making on the hills, leaving the starving people to their fate? It is strange that money is never wanting when the officials have to enjoy themselves. It is when hungry mouths are to be fed that the public exchequer is found to be empty. The Secretary of State, the Viceroy and all other officials have never failed to express their sympathy with the distressed people. But they have not so far made the least sacrifice in their favour. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is making heroic efforts to save human life, but he has not been supplied with sufficient funds, and he has been, therefore, obliged to reduce the rates of wages. This reduction of wages has reduced the number of labourers on relief works, and has no doubt deprived them of all means of livelihood.

The Government of Bombay has gone further. His Excellency is fining lazy labourers on relief works. According to the *Mahratta* of Poona, labourers are being so heavily fined that many of them are not getting more than two annas or one anna and-a-half per week. Can a man live on two annas per week? Is it not unreasonable to exact from famine-stricken people an amount of work which labourers in normal health alone can perform?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 5th, 1897.

59. The Maharaja of Darbhanga, writes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th May, did well to speak highly of the Government's famine measures in his budget speech, but he was not right in trying to minimise famine mortality. Famine mortality, it is true, is inevitable in out-of-the-way places, but it is also true that much of this mortality could be prevented if timely measures were adopted to save human life. How does the Maharaja come to know that the famine mortality is being exaggerated? European eye-witnesses complain of heavy mortality. Whole Europe believes them. What reason has the Maharaja to disbelieve them? The Maharaja evidently meant to please the Government. But he ought to have remained silent on such a delicate point. His silence would not certainly have offended the Government.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

60. The *Sahachar* of the 28th April has the following:—

SAMACHAR,  
April 28th, 1897.

Celebration of the Diamond  
Jubilee by the Indians.

There could not be a more auspicious or fitting occasion than the completion by Her Majesty of the sixtieth year of her reign, for the loyal Indians to express their loyalty to their sovereign who loves them as her



sons, whose rule has benefited India in numberless ways, and whom all India worships. O Indians! On a happy day like this, unite your voices to sing a psalm of victory to Her Majesty, so that from her distant throne she may hear your song.

61. The same paper thanks Heaven that in the bracing climate of Darjeeling, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has completely re-gained his health. May His Honour live long! He is Bengal's only hope in a critical time like this.

SAHACHAR,  
April 28th, 1897.

62. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 3rd May does not approve of the erection of a statue to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The memory of the Queen-Empress is enshrined in every Indian heart, and no statue is required to commemorate her name. Poor India could not erect a statue in honour of Lord Ripon, but Lord Ripon's name will be ever remembered with gratitude by every Indian. It is strange that a proposal should be made to erect the statue of a sovereign, under whose benign rule we live, who gave us a Viceroy like Lord Ripon, and whose name we can never for a moment forget. There is a statue of the Queen-Empress in the Calcutta Museum, a gift of the late Maharaja of Burdwan, and another statue is not required. The best way to celebrate the sixtieth year of the reign of the Queen-Empress is to dig tanks to be called "Jubilee Tanks" in villages suffering most from water-scarcity. Here is a grand opportunity for those in authority to give the people a tangible proof of the charity and benignity of their beloved sovereign, and they will incur a serious responsibility if they cannot rise equal to the occasion.

SULABH DAINIK,  
May 3rd, 1897.

63. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 5th May advises the Calcutta Jubilee Committee to recommend the digging of tanks to be called "Jubilee Tanks" in commemoration of the sixtieth year of the reign of the Queen-Empress. The writer has no objection to a statue, but thinks that the digging of tanks will be much more appreciated and approved of by the Queen-Empress herself. There are few subscribers to the Jubilee Fund who have no connection with the mufassal, and it will not be unreasonable to apply the fund raised in Calcutta to the amelioration of the condition of the mufassal people. There are few towns, but many villages, and the country is made up of villages. The best way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee is to remove the prevailing water-scarcity in Bengal villages.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
May 5th, 1897.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

64. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 17th March is alarmed at the excessive heat of the season, bringing with it cholera, small-pox, and, what is more dreadful, utter want of drinking water, and thinks that the prospect before the country is very gloomy. The *Samvadvaika* of the 18th March holds a similar opinion, and adds that there is neither fodder nor water for cattle which must perish in no time.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Mar. 17th, 1897.

65. Referring to the liberality of Raja Baikunthanath De Bahadur and his brother Satyendranath De, of Balasore, who contributed Rs. 7,500 towards the relief of the poor and distressed in different shapes, the same paper draws the attention of the Uriya public to the same, and exhorts its rich members to follow their example without any more delay.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

66. The *Utkaldipika* of the 20th March regrets to note that the exodus of the Government of India to Simla has commenced as usual, and that very little consideration has been paid to public opinion, which denounced the expenses incident to such exodus in the present season of distress.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1897.

67. The same paper has been informed that the wooden bridge on the Machgan Canal, near Balikuda, is so constructed as to allow only foot passengers to cross it, but there are no means by which cattle and other commodities can cross the canal. This has been a source of great inconvenience to the people residing near the canal.

UTKALDIPIKA.



UTKALDIPKA,  
Mar. 20th, 1897.

68. The same paper is further informed that theft and dacoity are on the increase in the Jagatsingpur thana, of the Cuttack district, and that some of them baffle all police investigation.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Mar. 17th, 1897.

69. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 17th March suggests that as the colony of Natal is treating the Indian subjects of Her Majesty with barbarity, the Government of India ought to come forward to protect their interests in every practicable way, and that the people of India ought to move that Government to do the needful.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

70. The same paper requests the authorities concerned to widen the temporary bridge on the Mahanadi, at Sambalpur, in such a way as to enable passengers and goods to cross the river without waiting unreasonably long.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI.

71. The same paper is disgusted with the unsatisfactory state of the roads of the Sambalpur Municipality, and suggests that the metalled roads should be watered regularly, so as to prevent the metal from being carried off by the wind in all directions.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,  
April 30th, 1897.

72. The *Silchar* of the 30th April expresses its satisfaction with Mr. Cotton's reply to the address of the Cachar people, but does not approve of his observations on the *begar* system:—

We have been for the last twenty-five years witnessing the atrocities of the *begar* system. The late Major Boyd, formerly Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, remedied the evil to a certain extent, and his successor, Mr. Kennedy, also followed in the same wake, and enhanced the wages of the coolies. The evil, however, should be rooted out as soon as possible. The system is a source of great oppression to the *mirasdars*, who have to pay the coolies ten times as much as the Government. The *mirasdars* are not zamindars, they have no tenants, and it is too much to expect them to supply the Government with cheap labour without incurring any loss. The officials know that the *mirasdars* are hard put to it in supplying labour to the Government, but they ignore their grievance, and have let the *begar* system exist in all its force simply because it is a gain to the Government. This causes interminable oppression in every Cachar village. The *mandals* take advantage of this system, and do not fail to exact something from the poor *mirasdars* who are fleeced all round. The evil can be mitigated to a certain extent if the Government fixes the *begar* rate in the same way as it has fixed the local rates. It is also strange that the tea-planters, who are prospering most under the British Government, should be exempted from the liabilities of the *begar* system. The injustice of this exemption is quite patent, and should not be tolerated by the Government any longer. The late Chief Commissioner, it should moreover be noticed, aggravated the evil by reducing the rates of *begar* wages. It is to be hoped that Mr. Cotton will take all these facts into consideration, and reform the *begar* system, against which there is a good deal to be said.

SILCHAR.

73. The same paper has the following on the condition of the coolies in the Assam tea-gardens:—

The coolies in the Assam tea-gardens.

The coolies in the Assam tea-gardens have to work harder than prisoners, and are worse fed. Their food is coarse, unwholesome and insufficient. The rate of their wages is very low, and few coolies can earn full wages, as they cannot do the full amount of work which is exacted in the tea-gardens. For a whole day's hard labour the tea-garden cooly gets three annas, whereas a free labourer earns eight or ten annas for the same amount of labour. Even jail labour, hired by private individuals, has to be paid at the rate of five annas per day. Rice is doled out to the tea-garden coolies from the garden godown. The quality of this rice is bad, and its quantity small. The coolies are often compelled to eat wild roots and plants. This coarse and insufficient food breaks down the constitution of the coolies. Oppression in tea-gardens is gradually disappearing, but even now coolies are punished if they fail to render the full measure of



service. Ill-fed, ill-treated and hard worked, the coolies soon break down. They become also heavily indebted and cannot get their release from the tea-gardens. No tea-garden cooly can earn more than three or four rupees per month, while they ought to get eight or nine rupees. Tea-gardens cannot pay coolies at this high rate. Tea industry may, therefore, be said to be a cooly-killing industry. When coolies are broken down by the hard labour which is exacted from them, they are turned out by their employers. They then swell the number of street beggars and become a burden on the poor people of the neighbourhood. Are not the tea-planters bound to maintain the coolies in their distress when they have brought them over for their own benefit from their distant homes? It is to be hoped that the inspectors of tea-gardens will henceforth closely inquire into the condition of the coolies employed in them.

74. The same paper complains that the Silchar Church has been floored with marble at the public cost. This waste of public money in this year of distress is certainly reprehensible.

A church in Silchar adorned at the public cost.

SILCHAR.  
April 30th, 1897.

75. The same paper thanks Mr. Cotton for the encouragement he is giving to the newspapers in Assam by ordering the publication of all Government notifications and advertisements in them. It is to this patronage and encouragement that the *Silchar* owes its revival.

Mr. Cotton's attitude towards the Assam Press.

SILCHAR.

76. The same paper is glad to observe that Mr. Cotton lately condemned the flogging of a prisoner, who had used *pan* and tobacco. Mr. Cotton said that *pan* and tobacco were a necessity and not a luxury to a native of this country.

Mr. Cotton's kindness to a convict.

SILCHAR.

77. The same paper condemns the hiring out of jail labour to private individuals on Sundays. Prisoners ought not to be robbed of their short Sunday respite.

Jail labour on Sundays.

SILCHAR.

78. The same paper complains that the Sessions Judge of Cachar makes great delay in deciding appeals. Lately, a woman appealed to him against the decision of a lower court. The appellant was released on bail, but her appeal remained pending for five or six months. This unusual delay led the ignorant woman to think that she had been acquitted. She was going to be married, when she was informed that the decision of the lower court had been upheld. The Deputy Commissioner has given the woman two weeks' time to marry.

The Sessions Judge of Cachar.

SILCHAR.

79. The same paper complains of the supineness and incapacity of the Assam Police. The Cachar Police cannot detect murderers. This is the reason why murder is on the increase.

The Assam Police.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 8th May 1897.



